

DRAFT

COMBINED STRUCTURAL and OPERATING PLAN ADVISORY TEAM

CHARTER

BACKGROUND:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, is proceeding to develop a Combined Structural and Operating Plan (CSOP), with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), for the Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park (Mod Water) and the Canal 111 (C-111) Projects with the assistance of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Everglades National Park (ENP) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Currently, the two projects are partially completed and are operated in accordance with the Interim Operating Plan (IOP) that was approved in July, 2002. In general, the Corps is using the CSOP study to develop the final operating plan for the two projects and, if necessary, to recommend structural modifications to the authorized C-111 and Mod Water projects. Representatives from federal, state, and local governmental agencies and tribal nations, as well as a number of nongovernmental entities, have expressed interest in participating in the CSOP process. To improve and increase the involvement of the affected stakeholders, the Working Group has been asked to establish an advisory committee to provide advice and recommendations. This advisory group is established in response to that request. A detailed historical background of the various projects is attached along with the CSOP Overview and Project Purposes and Objectives.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the CSOP Advisory Team (Team) is to assist the Task Force ~~Working Group~~ in providing recommendations to the Corps during key phases in the CSOP process and, by doing so, to increase stakeholder participation in the CSOP process.

MEMBERS: TBD

GUIDANCE:

1. The Team is charged to provide advice and/or recommendations at various steps of the CSOP planning process. In general, the Corps, in coordination with the SFWMD, ENP and FWS, will provide input to the Team as described below and the Team will advise the Task Force and its Working Group as indicated.

2. The following list consisting of expected input to the Team, Team deliverables and the deliverables' schedule is provided as the initial work plan for the Team:
 - a. At the initial Team meeting, the Corps, SFWMD, ENP, and FWS will present the CSOP Overview and Project Purposes and Objectives and brief the Advisory Team on the CSOP.
 - The Team will identify key issues and concerns and provide to the Working Group and Task Force the list of issues identified along with any suggestions on how to proceed to resolve issues and concerns within two (2) months of the initial meeting.
 - b. The Corps will provide draft performance measures to the Team.
 - Within two (2) months after receipt of the draft performance measures, the Team will identify key issues and concerns and provide comments to the Working Group and Task Force on those performance measures.
 - c. The Corps will provide an initial array of Alternatives to the Team.
 - The Team will review the Alternatives, identify issues and provide their recommended improvements to the array, either as recommendations for new alternatives or adjustments to any of the alternatives in the initial array. These recommendations should be provided to the Working Group and Task Force within two (2) months after receipt of the initial array.
 - d. The Corps will furnish detailed Alternatives, along with necessary technical information, to the Team for review.
 - The Team will review the detailed Alternatives and identify issues, improvements and recommended changes associated with each. The Team will provide progress reports to the Working Group and Task Force every two (2) months until the task is completed.
 - e. The Corps will provide the Team with its alternative analysis, including initial conclusions on the preferred plan.
 - The Team will review the preferred plan and report to the Working Group and Task Force with its final recommendations within two (2) months.
3. All of the Team reports to the Working Group and Task Force should be written. The Working Group, and as appropriate the Task Force, will schedule time at its first meeting after each report to allow a presentation by the Team and a ~~Working Group~~ discussion of the report.
4. The Working Group will forward ~~their~~ its recommendations to the Task Force as appropriate. ~~Corps for consideration in development of the final preferred alternative for CSOP.~~

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The Team will serve in an advisory role to the Working Group and Task Force. Participation on the Team does not constitute participation in the Corps' formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public comment process and does not preclude Team members from fully participating in the NEPA public comment process. Neither does participation on the Team modify the independent decision-making authorities and responsibilities of any agencies participating on the Team.
2. All Team meetings will be open to the public and time will be included on the agenda for public comment. Meetings will be advertised in accordance with the Task Force/Working Group's Public Affairs Procedures.
3. The planning times listed in the deliverables section are based on the current CSOP planning schedule. The Corps will notify the Working Group, Task Force and the Team of changes to the CSOP planning schedule and recommended changes to the timetable for the deliverables listed above.
4. It is not intended that the deliverable schedule necessarily be done sequentially. The Corps and the Team Chair will coordinate the schedule and allow for flexibility when necessary.
5. Initially, the Team is expected to meet every two (2) weeks in order to meet the schedule for the first deliverable. The meeting schedule will be adjusted as necessary to respond to the planning guidelines.
6. The Team should work to develop consensus recommendations to the Working Group and Task Force and use the Task Force/Working Group protocol for approving its reports. When complete consensus is unattainable, a 2/3 majority vote will suffice for final Team actions. Actions other than final approvals may be taken by a simple majority vote. If there is not complete consensus, the dissenting members shall have an opportunity to submit a minority report to accompany the consensus document.
7. Meetings of the Team will be facilitated by independent professional facilitators.
8. The Office of the Executive Director will work closely with the Team, the facilitators and the Corps and its partners to provide assistance as needed.

SIGNED BY:

Chair, Task Force ~~Working Group~~ ?